



Will Brown,
CDFA Undersecretary.

It is my pleasure to welcome Will Brown as our new CDFA undersecretary.

[Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Will](#) earlier this month.

Will has a background in both business and government, and brings to CDFA a long history of working with agricultural and consumer food distribution and retail interests. These involved a wide range of federal and state policy issues, including those that impacted trade and direct foreign investment. Since 2003, he operated his own government relations and public affairs consulting practice – which specialized in senior-level strategic counsel and advocacy services to corporate, public and nonprofit clients throughout the western states. Earlier he had served as principal consultant to the California Legislature's Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance. He has also worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and as a legislative assistant to a member of Congress. Prior to this Will worked as a corporate finance officer and operations manager for the World Banking Division of Bank of America.

I look forward to working with Will, particularly as we seek to inform policymakers in the California Legislature about the vital contributions that our state's farmers and ranchers make to our economy and quality of life.

As many of you know, my family still farms successfully in Orange County despite much of the farmland being paved over many years ago. This month, I participated in a roundtable discussion on urban/rural agriculture with representatives from the [American Farmland Trust](#) and [Roots of Change](#). I stressed the importance of educating all consumers on the need to choose foods that help meet dietary guidelines and of giving them access to these foods in an affordable, sustainable and convenient manner.

Thank you for your support of California agriculture.

A. G. Kawamura

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In California today, more than 6,000 of our state's 9,000 schools have a school garden. This success is due to the ongoing efforts of groups like the [California School Garden Network](#), pioneering individuals like [Chez Panisse](#) founder [Alice Waters](#), and funding provided in Governor Schwarzenegger's [2007 budget](#).

In recognition of this edible education movement, I joined [Karen Baker, the Secretary of Service and Volunteering](#) to promote the third annual kickoff of [California School Garden Week](#) on October 23 at [The California Museum](#) in Sacramento.

In Sacramento alone, as part of California School Garden Week, 300 [AmeriCorps](#) members partnered with 20 schools to help them with garden planting and clean-up activities. Other garden events occurred throughout the state to prepare for this year's school harvests and plantings.

As you can see from this photo, getting your hands into the soil is a lot of fun and helps to instill in young people a love of growing fresh produce and of healthy eating.



Pictured with me are (left to right) student McKenzie Carvalho; Secretary Karen Baker; Marsha Guerrero, executive director of Chez Panisse Edible Schoolyard; and Claudia French, executive director of The California Museum.